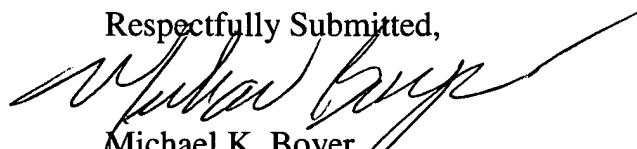


REMARKS

The instant application is a continued prosecution application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/696,854. Claims 1-20 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 2, 12, 15, 16 and 19 have been amended, Claim 18 be cancelled and new Claims 21 - 22 are being submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Support for the new Claims can be found, for example, on Pages 11 through 14 of the instant application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the instant application.

Applicants believe that the pending claims define patentable subject matter and respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowability for the instant application. Please find attached hereto a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time. Should there any other fee due in connection with the instant application, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 15-0680 (Orscheln Management Co.). Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicants would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael K. Boyer
Attorney for Applicants
U.S.P.T.O. Reg No 33085
tel: 660 269-4536
fax: 660 269-4530
email: mboyer@orscheln.com

Encl.: CPA Request Transmittal
Certificate of Express Mailing
Two Month Extension of Time

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please add new Claim 22 as follows:

--22. The composition of any one of Claims 1 or 15 wherein said sealant defines at least one opening, and comprises a protuberance that is compression fit into the member to be sealed and is at least partially inserted into said member to be sealed and at least two extensions that extend along an exterior of the member to be sealed.--